

*Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee*  
**Meeting Agenda**

December 6, 2012 • Department of Public Works • Conference Room, 4:30 PM

Attending: Sue Morrello, John Root, Laurel Dickey, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Brenda Davies, Arnie Alper (visitor, considering committee membership), Susan Waite

Nov. 2011 minutes approved as edited.

**Membership recruitment plan:** Sue Cairn has resigned from the committee (Susan Waite read letter aloud). John will send an email to her as a thank you. This leaves two empty seats on the committee. Craig Goff has submitted his application. Susan has spoken with John Musante's secretary to determine the status of his application (John has been busy) and suggests that Arnie Alper submit his citizen activity form now to get it into the pipeline. The names of several other people who have expressed interest in the past were brought up and Susan and Brenda have agreed to contact them to see if they are still interested.

**Foam-Free Subcommittee Update:** Subcommittee agreed to help with organizing the buying consortium. Sue M. and Brenda will support the Chamber of Commerce and the merchants in getting it up and running. Sue M. will send a letter to Tony Maroulis saying that they are ready to help. Brenda suggests that a binder be compiled of interview sheets completed during restaurant visits. Susan W. urges us to make sure that expectations of the Committee in terms of what we will do to support development of a buying consortium are clear, and reminded us to consider items to wrap up: Thank you note to Peter Vickery, thank you notes to restaurants that are already foam-free, ways to recognize organizations that are foam-free, how to create a flyer to notify all establishments and food trucks that they will need to become foam-free. A motion was made to disband the foam subcommittee that was approved unanimously. The full committee will continue to address the open issues.

**Determine Zero Waste next steps:**

Solomon Goldstein-Rose, Amherst resident and student at Brown University, is interested in our activities (started some school based initiatives in previous years) and has been invited to attend the committee's January meeting.

- Susan W. attended a meeting on product stewardship and extended producer responsibility. Could be voluntary or could be legislated. Bottles, mercury thermostats, some electronics, and many more are legislated. Amherst passed a referendum last year supporting extended producer responsibility.
- We could work towards the Select Board supporting a proclamation supporting development of a zero waste plan. Lynne Pledger has provided us with information on how to move forward with this. A motion was made that the committee would ask the Select Board to endorse a zero waste proclamation. The committee would develop the proclamation and provide it to the Select Board. The proclamation would require the development of a steering committee, composed of stakeholders, who would create recommendations on how to move

forward towards zero waste. Approved unanimously. Susan will send the info from Lynne Pledger to committee members.

- Composting: Susan W. explained that a local hauler has begun a pilot curbside composting program. We could also replicate the system used in Northampton whereby participants pay for access to transfer station composting bin.

**Gazette articles on Recycling:** Susan states that it is highly likely that these figures are inaccurate. Brenda will submit a holiday recycling letter to the Bulletin editor and Sue M. will find out the cost for putting an insert in the Bulletin. Inserts could also be put in the water bills.

**Landfills Alternatives Report:** Edits were provided. Susan will resend and we will focus on this in January.

### **New Business**

- \$2,600 grant for: Purchase of more recycling collection bins and a wheeled cart, stickers for indentifying bins as town property, and more rolling toters for transfer station use.
- Susan will be presenting to the League of Women Voters and the Amherst Club in early 2013.
- Susan briefly discussed Bokashi Bins, a form of indoor composting using enzymes popularized in Japan.
- Susan shared the information that Massachusetts is the most expensive state for landfill & incinerator tipping fees. This is why it is cost feasible to ship our trash out of state.